

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 1 is canceled. Therefore, claims 2-8 and 12 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 3,5,7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kondo et al.

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Formal Matters

In item 2, the Examiner notes that a sub-section entitled "Brief Summary of the Invention" is missing from the specification. However, as also eminently noted by the Examiner, the listed arrangement of the specification is merely a "preferred" arrangement. Such an arrangement is not required by US patent laws or rules of practice.

The Examiner is requested to consider the IDS filed on March 19, 2003, and return a signed and initialed copy of the corresponding Form 1449.

The Examiner, while including detailed comments regarding claim 12, has indicated claim 12 as having been withdrawn in the Summary Section. However, claim 12 was newly added in the previous amendment. The Examiner is requested to reclassify claim 12 in the proper category.

Section 112 rejections

The non-limiting amendments to the claims should obviate the section 112 rejections of claims 3,5,7 and 8.

Prior art rejections

Claims 1-8 (and 12?) have been rejected based on Kondo.

Claim 12 (as amended) requires that a second and a third electronic device be connected to a first electronic device. The first electronic device is required to be connected in a specific way and the devices are required to be stacked in the direction of height (see, for example, Fig. 2, portion B, Fig. 3, portion B and Fig. 5, portion B, as well as page 7, lines 19-22 and page 9, lines 21-23). Kondo et al. does not disclose (or even remotely suggest) such a configuration. Kondo et al. teaches a configuration in which a plurality of devices are arranged horizontally in a single device plane without exception, so that the surface area increases with the increase in the number of devices. This, coupled with the fact that Kondo et al. needs a support body, clearly distinguishes Kondo et al. from the present invention capable of reducing the overall size of the assembly.

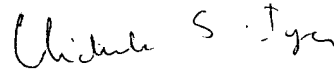
Claims 2-8 depend on claim 12 and are patentable for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Chid S. Iyer
Registration No. 43,355

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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